

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 342

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the Honorable Dewey C. Whitenton of Bolivar.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of the Honorable Dewey C. Whitenton, who so ably served the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Judge Whitenton was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Dewey C. Whitenton served with acumen and alacrity as Chancery Court Judge of the Twenty-fifth Judicial District of Tennessee for thirty years, and was remembered by his colleagues and friends as a jurist of great integrity and ability; and

WHEREAS, born June 4, 1934, in Bolivar, Dewey Whitenton graduated from Bolivar Central High School; after receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University, he attended the university's law school, where he earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence as well; and

WHEREAS, before his appointment to the Court of Chancery in 1976, Mr. Whitenton served for six years in the United States Army and the Tennessee National Guard; he also engaged in the general practice of law and served as a county attorney before becoming a Chancellor; and

WHEREAS, a member of the American Bar Association since 1971, Judge Whitenton was very active in the organization's Judicial Division and the National Conference of State Trial Judges for over twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, highly respected throughout the Tennessee legal community, the Honorable Dewey C. Whitenton served as the Chairman of the Task Force on State Judicial Associations,

and he was appointed to serve as a member of the Commission on the Uniform Probate Code; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from the bench in 2006, Judge Whintenton remained active in his chosen profession, serving as Bolivar City Attorney and a Rule 31 Mediator; and

WHEREAS, an enthusiastic member of numerous civic and charitable organizations, Judge Whintenton devoted his time and energy to the Heart Fund, the Cancer Fund, the Carl Perkins Center for Domestic and Child Abuse, the Arts Council, and both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, his service to the Bolivar Rotary Club included a tenure as President, and Judge Whintenton was also a Paul Harris Fellow; his record of over twenty-six years of perfect attendance with his local Rotary is remarkable; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Dewey C. Whintenton was an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church of Bolivar, which he served faithfully as a teacher of the Men's Bible Class for more than forty-two years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many years of teaching at First United Methodist, Judge Whintenton served as the Chairman of the church's Administrative Board and Chairman of the Board of Trustees also; and

WHEREAS, Judge Whintenton was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of almost forty-nine years, Margaret "Marne" Ellen Davis Whintenton, who survives him along with a daughter, Carol Whintenton, and two sons and their wives, David and Carol Ann Whintenton, and Joel and Tamara Whintenton; and

WHEREAS, surviving grandchildren include Joel Davis Whintenton II, Chandler Whintenton, Connor Whintenton, Kate Whintenton, and Emma Whintenton; and

WHEREAS, Judge Whintenton was preceded in death by his parents, Dewey and Lorena Whintenton; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Dewey C. Whintenton leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of the Honorable Dewey C. Whitenton, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Judge Whitenton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.